



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.state.mt.us
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

June 23, 2004

To: District and School Officials
District Test Coordinators

From: Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent

Subject: Release of Assessment Data and Plans for AYP Determinations

I want to give you an update on the Office of Public Instruction's plans for review and release of statewide assessment data and a progress report on determining the Adequate Yearly Progress status for schools, districts, and the state for 2004.

1. STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Below are updated calendars of planned statewide assessment review and reporting. Dates and deadlines for reviewing and reporting results are listed for the Iowa Tests (NRT) and for the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). These dates vary slightly from the dates reported by our office in the May *JUMP* newsletter.

Please take special note of the windows for reviewing test results online. It is important for your district to make arrangements for conducting the reviews during the review periods in June and July. These review periods are the final opportunity for districts to review the student information that they provided on the student answer documents. The deadline for your district to report any CRT corrections to Measured Progress is July 15th. The deadline for your district to report any Iowa Test (NRT) corrections to OPI is July 26th.

Please designate someone in your district to watch for the passwords, one in a letter from Measured Progress and one in a letter from OPI. The letter from Measured Progress was addressed to the test coordinator, contained passwords for reviewing the CRT test data, and was sent to the district the week of June 4th. The letter from OPI was addressed to the Authorized Representative, contains passwords for reviewing the Iowa test data, and was sent to the district on June 17th. The passwords give districts access to their secure data online.

If you have any problems, please contact Judy Snow at OPI: 406-444-3656 or jsnow@state.mt.us. Thank you for performing this final review of the information you provided on student answer documents for each test.

Iowa Tests (Norm-Referenced Test)

June 18, 2004	School districts receive passwords for logging on to secure site to review test results on the OPI webpage
July 15-16, 2004	OPI reports preliminary state aggregated results to the Board of Public Education
July 15-26, 2004	School districts review data on secure OPI site and contact OPI with corrections
July 26, 2004	Last day for school districts to notify OPI with corrections
August 6, 2004	OPI verifies changes and notifies school districts
September 10, 2004	State disaggregated results reported at Board of Public Education meeting Public release of state disaggregated results District and school disaggregated results posted online on OPI's website
November 2004	Analysis of state disaggregated results reported at Board of Public Education meeting Analysis of state disaggregated results posted online on OPI's website

Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) (Measured Progress)

May 2004	Team of Montana educators chooses model answers for short answer questions. These model answers are examples of each performance level on the scoring grid.
June 4, 2004	School districts receive passwords for logging on to secure site on the Measured Progress webpage
June 9 - July 15, 2004	School districts review demographic data on a secure site and contact Measured Progress with corrections
June 28 - July 1, 2004	Standard Setting for Cut Scores: Team of Montana educators proposes cut scores for performance levels of novice, nearing proficiency, proficient, and advanced
June 30, 2004	Sample reports online on OPI webpage
July 13, 2004	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews cut score proposals and makes recommendation to Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction.
July 15, 2004	Last day for school systems to notify Measured Progress of corrections to demographic data
July 26, 2004	Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction makes final decision on cut scores.
August 9, 2004	OPI receives preliminary data from Measured Progress
September 22, 2004	School districts receive printed and electronic test results (CD) from Measured Progress
October 18, 2004	OPI receives final data from Measured Progress

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

As you know, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires a single accountability system for all schools in our state, whether or not the schools and districts receive Title I funds. The law is specific about how to measure accountability and requires the annual determination of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for each school, district and the state. The U.S. Department of Education approves the required state plan, entitled the *Montana Accountability Workbook*, to make the AYP determinations. Currently, we are working to develop amendments to our workbook. These amendments are necessary because, as you know, we can no longer use the Iowa Tests for AYP determinations. Instead, we must use the NCLB required Criterion Referenced Test (CRT).

The Office of Public Instruction will submit our preliminary recommendations for modifying the Montana AYP process to the US Department of Education on July 1st. The Title I Committee of Practitioners will review the amendments, and Montana educators will be invited to be a part of the discussion and amendment process. I appreciate the many constructive suggestions that OPI has received during our first year of the AYP process. I am hopeful that as we continue our dialogue, we can incorporate these good ideas and ultimately have them approved by the US Department of Education.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, at 406-444-5541 or ncoopersmith@state.mt.us.

Enjoy your summer!

***Linda